

A Practical Guide for **Senior Drivers**



A Practical Guide for Senior Drivers

Statement of Purpose

This book will help you refresh your knowledge of safe driving rules and practices. Your workbook includes questions on Iowa law, rules for safe driving, and the meaning of signs.



Directions

Place the correct number in the space below each of the following signs on the next page. (Answers are on the back page.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. School Zone and Crossing | 13. Do Not Enter |
| 2. No U-Turn | 14. Warning |
| 3. No Right Turn | 15. Railroad |
| 4. Merging Traffic from the Right | 16. Pedestrian Crossing |
| 5. Crossroad | 17. Slow Moving Vehicle |
| 6. Two Lanes Merging Into One | 18. No Passing Zone |
| 7. Stop | 19. Road Construction/Maintenance |
| 8. Yield Right of Way | 20. One-Way |
| 9. Side Road | 21. Hill |
| 10. Winding Road | 22. Keep to the Right |
| 11. Two-Way Traffic | 23. Slippery When Wet |
| 12. Approach to a Divided Highway | 24. Warning of Change in Direction
or Narrowing of Roadway |



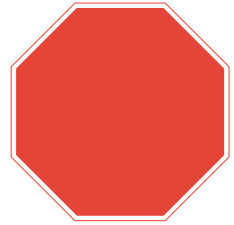
(a) _____



(b) _____



(c) _____



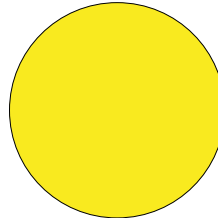
(d) _____



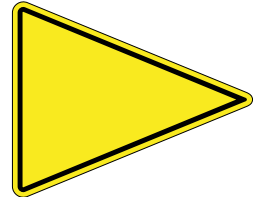
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(f) _____



(g) _____



(h) _____



(i) _____



(j) _____



(k) _____



(l) _____



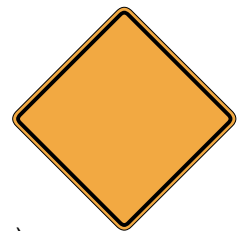
(m) _____



(n) _____



(o) _____



(p) _____



(q) _____



(r) _____



(s) _____



(t) _____



(u) _____



(v) _____



(w) _____



(x) _____

Safety Workbook

Questions and information are provided only to help you measure your knowledge and to assist you in identifying any problems you may have in regard to driving. Participants will not be graded on their answers to the questions. (Answers are on the back page.)

Directions: Place an "X" next to the correct answer.

- 1. You are driving and approach a visually-impaired pedestrian attempting to cross the street, carrying a white cane or accompanied by a guide dog; what must you do?**
☐ a. Pass if you slow down and sound the horn.
☐ b. Yield the right of way and stop.
☐ c. Pass if there are no vehicles approaching from the opposite direction.
- 2. Even if you are driving under the posted speed limit, you could be violating the speed law if:**
☐ a. You fail to sound your horn when you pass another car.
☐ b. You slow down to make a turn at the next intersection.
☐ c. You are driving too fast for weather conditions.
- 3. Never change lanes without:**
☐ a. Signaling your intentions.
☐ b. Looking over your shoulder and checking the blind spot.
☐ c. All of the above.
- 4. The law requires that you dim your headlights at least 1000 feet before you meet an oncoming vehicle. How far back do you dim your headlights before approaching another vehicle from the rear?**
☐ a. 800 feet
☐ b. 400 feet
☐ c. 500 feet
- 5. When approaching a flashing yellow signal light, you must:**
☐ a. Come to a complete stop.
☐ b. Slow down and proceed with caution.
☐ c. Wait for the light to stop flashing.
- 6. If a green arrow points to the right while a red traffic light is showing:**
☐ a. Turn right only after stopping.
☐ b. Go straight ahead after checking for traffic and pedestrians.
☐ c. Turn cautiously in the direction of the arrow and be alert for pedestrians.
- 7. When passing a vehicle, do not return to the right-hand lane until you can see the vehicle you have passed in your:**
☐ a. Side mirror.
☐ b. Rearview mirror.
☐ c. Back window.
- 8. When approaching a stop sign, you must come to a complete stop:**
☐ a. Before the sign.
☐ b. Anywhere in the intersection.
☐ c. Behind the stop line, before entering the crosswalk, or before entering the intersection if there is no crosswalk.

9. If a right turn is permitted at a red stop light, you must:

- ☐ a. Turn immediately into the intersection.
- ☐ b. Follow the traffic ahead of you.
- ☐ c. Come to a complete stop, proceed with caution, and yield the right of way to vehicles and pedestrians in the intersection.

10. If your right wheel goes off the edge of the pavement while the car is in motion, you should:

- ☐ a. Increase your speed and get back on the road immediately.
- ☐ b. Without braking, turn to the left.
- ☐ c. Grip the steering wheel firmly, do not accelerate, brake gently and turn back on the road when it is safe to do so (after approaching traffic has passed).

11. Most rear-end collisions are caused by:

- ☐ a. Improper following distance between two or more vehicles.
- ☐ b. Slow speed of traffic.
- ☐ c. Poor road conditions.

12. When driving on a slippery road, and your vehicle starts to skid, you should:

- ☐ a. Drive close to the edge of the road.
- ☐ b. Stop instantly.
- ☐ c. Steer in the direction that the rear wheels are skidding.

13. If the total damage to all vehicles in an accident is \$1,000 or more, a state accident report must be filled out by all drivers involved.

- ☐ a. True.
- ☐ b. False.

14. Night driving can be made safer by applying the following rule:

- ☐ a. Drive at a fast speed.
- ☐ b. Wear prescribed sunglasses.
- ☐ c. Travel at a speed that will enable you to stop within the distance lighted by your headlights.

15. If a driver hears or sees an authorized emergency vehicle, on a roadway not separated by a median strip, the driver must:

- ☐ a. Pull to the right when it is safe to do so, and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed by.
- ☐ b. Increase his/her speed.
- ☐ c. Turn at the next intersection.

16. A single solid yellow line on your side of the center line on a two-lane pavement means no passing.

- ☐ a. True.
- ☐ b. False.

17. Under normal driving conditions, a good rule of thumb to ensure a minimum safe following distance is the:

- ☐ a. 10-second Rule.
- ☐ b. 8-second Rule.
- ☐ c. 2-second Rule.

18. In case of a tire blowout while driving you should:

- ☐ a. Grip the steering wheel firmly, and do not brake but reduce speed.
- ☐ b. Increase your speed.
- ☐ c. Quickly turn onto the shoulder of the road.

19. When approaching an intersection with a traffic control signal and the light turns from green to yellow, you should:

- ☐ a. Not enter the intersection.
- ☐ b. Increase your speed.
- ☐ c. Blow your horn and continue through the intersection.

20. When driving in dense fog conditions, you should:

- ☐ a. Use your bright lights.
- ☐ b. Stop your car on the road.
- ☐ c. Travel cautiously at a safe speed within the limits of your vision.

21. Two vehicles approach an intersection from different directions at the same time. There are no stop signs, yield signs or traffic control lights. Which driver must yield?

- ☐ a. The driver on the left.
- ☐ b. The driver on the right.
- ☐ c. The driver who first sounds his/her horn.

22. When making a left turn, you have the right of way over other vehicles.

- ☐ a. True.
- ☐ b. False.

23. Regardless of size, motorcycles are entitled to the same right of way privileges as other vehicles. Special attention should be given when:

- ☐ a. The driver of the motorcycle is not wearing a helmet.
- ☐ b. The motorcycle is very noisy.
- ☐ c. They approach an intersection, a railroad crossing or bridge, or during bad weather conditions.

24. When there are two or more lanes of traffic moving in each direction, what type of center line is used?

- ☐ a. One single solid yellow line.
- ☐ b. Broken white lines.
- ☐ c. Two solid yellow lines.

25. On a two-lane roadway, you must always stop for a school bus flashing its red warning lights and extending its stop signal arm when:

- ☐ a. Approaching the school bus from behind.
- ☐ b. Approaching the school bus from the front.
- ☐ c. Approaching the bus in either direction.

26. A left turn is permitted at a red light:

- ☐ a. If a driver comes to a complete stop, yields the right of way to traffic on the roadway, and proceeds with caution from a one-way street into another one-way street that moves traffic to the left.
- ☐ b. If a driver sounds a horn before proceeding.
- ☐ c. If a driver waits for a green light before proceeding.

27. When approaching a flashing red signal light, you must:

- ☐ a. Come to a complete stop.
- ☐ b. Proceed with caution.
- ☐ c. Wait for a green light before proceeding.

28. When you come to a railroad crossing without flashing warning signals or crossing gates, you should:

- ☐ a. Increase your speed and cross the tracks as quickly as possible.
- ☐ b. Stop immediately.
- ☐ c. Be alert, slow down, be prepared to stop, and proceed with caution if no train is approaching.

29. When a traffic signal turns to green, you may proceed:

- ☐ a. After looking in both directions.
- ☐ b. Instantly.
- ☐ c. After yielding the right of way to pedestrians and vehicles still in or entering the intersection.

30. When parking downhill on a street with curbing, you must:

- ☐ a. Turn the wheels away from the curb.
- ☐ b. Turn the wheels toward the curb.
- ☐ c. It does not make any difference.

31. When driving out of an alley, private road or driveway in an urban area:

- ☐ a. Slow down.
- ☐ b. Sound your horn.
- ☐ c. Stop before entering the sidewalk area and yield the right of way to pedestrians and vehicles.

32. If you pass your intended exit on an interstate or expressway, you should:

- ☐ a. Stop and back up on the shoulder of the road.
- ☐ b. Go on to the next exit.
- ☐ c. Park and wait for help.

33. When planning to pass a motorcycle, bicycle, or moped, always:

- ☐ a. Share the same lane with the motorcycle, bicycle, or moped.
- ☐ b. Sound your horn and accelerate your vehicle.
- ☐ c. Change lanes and pass the same way you would pass another car.

34. Iowa law requires that in residential areas, turn signals must be given at least:

- ☐ a. 50 feet before turning.
- ☐ b. 100 feet before turning.
- ☐ c. 200 feet before turning.

35. Grandparents:

- ☐ a. Do not need to use child safety seats when transporting grandchildren under the age of six.
- ☐ b. Should not transport grandchildren.
- ☐ c. Must use a child safety seat when transporting children under age three and must use either a child safety seat or seat belt for transporting children between the ages of three and six.

36. To turn safely into a sharp curve ahead, you should:

- ☐ a. Slow down before entering a curve.
- ☐ b. Reduce your speed after entering a curve.
- ☐ c. Stop and proceed with caution.

37. To prevent skidding (hydroplaning) when driving on wet pavement, always:

- ☐ a. Increase the speed of your car.
- ☐ b. Apply your brakes.
- ☐ c. Reduce speed.

38. When are broken white lines (dashes) used on streets or highways?

- ☐ a. When passing is prohibited.
- ☐ b. On two-lane pavements.
- ☐ c. To divide lanes on streets and highways having more than one lane of traffic moving in the same direction.

39. When a driver is in an intersection waiting to make a left turn, the front wheels of his/her vehicle should be positioned:

- ☐ a. Left.
- ☐ b. Straight.
- ☐ c. At a 90-degree angle.

40. The right of way is:

- ☐ a. To be taken.
- ☐ b. To be demanded.
- ☐ c. To be given.

41. When approaching a sign that reads

“Merging Traffic,” you must:

- ☐ a. Stop your vehicle before proceeding.
- ☐ b. Try to “Beat the traffic.”
- ☐ c. Adjust your speed and position to avoid a collision with other vehicles.

42. You may cross a double yellow line marking only under the following conditions:

- ☐ a. When approaching an intersection.
- ☐ b. To make a left turn into or from any alley, private road or driveway.
- ☐ c. On city streets.

43. When completing a right turn into a multi-lane road, you should complete the turn in the:

- ☐ a. Lane nearest the left-hand curb.
- ☐ b. Lane nearest the right-hand curb.
- ☐ c. Middle lane in the intersection.

44. Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on a residential street is:

- ☐ a. 25 mph
- ☐ b. 30 mph
- ☐ c. 35 mph

45. High beam glare of oncoming headlights can most safely be reduced by:

- ☐ a. Occasionally looking at the white stripe at the right edge of the pavement.
- ☐ b. Looking at the center line of the road.
- ☐ c. Wearing sunglasses.

46. The legal speed limit in a school zone is:

- ☐ a. 20 mph
- ☐ b. 25 mph
- ☐ c. 30 mph

47. After a train has passed, the general rule of thumb is to continue as soon as the train clears the railroad crossing.

- ☐ a. True.
- ☐ b. False.

48. In cold weather, bridges may be icy even when other roads are dry.

- ☐ a. True.
- ☐ b. False.

49. You may pass another car by using the shoulder of the road:

- ☐ a. When the vehicle in front of you is making a left-hand turn.
- ☐ b. To go around a slow moving vehicle.
- ☐ c. You are not allowed to pass on the shoulder of the road.

50. If you get stranded in a winter storm, you should:

- ☐ a. Leave your car to find help.
- ☐ b. Stay inside your car and wait for help.
- ☐ c. Get out and try to push your car.

Safety Quick Tips

✓ **Your “comfort level” is your best friend.**

If you are not comfortable driving

- ➔ On the road
- ➔ At that time of day
- ➔ To that town

Then find an alternative

- ➔ A different route
- ➔ A different time of day
- ➔ Ride with someone else
- ➔ Contact your local transit system (urban or rural)

**If left turns are a problem or make you nervous,
change your route**

- ➔ Make more right turns to eliminate the left turn
- ➔ Make left turns where there is a traffic light with a turn arrow
- ➔ Pick an intersection with a four-way stop
- ➔ Pick a less busy intersection for your left turn

If backing makes you nervous or causes you trouble

- ➔ Use parking places where you do not have to back out

If heavy traffic makes you nervous or causes you trouble

- ➔ Carpool when going downtown or to the mall -- leave the driving to someone else -- offer to drive when you are going someplace less busy

✓ **Anticipation makes up for your reactions slowing down.**

- ➔ Make sure you look as far ahead as you can see; as well as seeing everything that is close

- ➔ Make sure you regularly look left and right so you will spot merging traffic or cross traffic at the next intersection in time to react safely
- ➔ Expect that next stop light to change before you get to it and be prepared to stop
- ➔ Look in your rearview mirror often; if you have someone following too close or closing on you too fast, start slowing down early, taking a longer time coming to a stop so they will not be caught off guard and rear-end your car

✓ **Make sure you do not drive with your handicap parking permit hanging from your rearview mirror.**

- ➔ Your handicap parking permit can hide cars and pedestrians from your view -- it could be someone you know that you are not seeing! (Shown in pictures below.)



Remember: This permit should be displayed only when parked!

✓ **Adjusting to changing driving skills.**

- ➔ Many seniors drive older low mileage cars. Years ago this car might have been a perfect match to your driving skills; but now, it is cumbersome, hard to steer and maneuver; it's difficult to know where the corners of your bumpers are; and you find yourself sitting lower in the seat so the dashboard and steering wheel may be keeping you from seeing everything you need to see. Try a smaller car; they now include the comfort features of your old car and probably have many new features not available when your car was new.

- ➔ When you are turning, left or right, and approaching traffic catches up to you faster than you expected, it may mean that your ability to judge the speed and distance of other vehicles is changing. You can protect yourself by changing your driving. Set up your route so that you only turn at stop lights. Look for intersections with turn lanes and stop lights with turn arrows when making left turns. In smaller communities, choose streets where there is no other traffic. But, most important, if you are not sure, wait; do not make your turn until you are sure. It's easier to survive the honking horn of a rude and impatient driver behind you than a traffic crash.

- ➔ As we age, it takes longer to recover from headlight glare. If you have trouble seeing clearly at night or are uncomfortable driving at night, schedule your appointments and activities for daylight hours. When driving at night, remember to look at the right edge of the road when headlights approach to avoid being blinded by the glare.



Office of Driver Services
1-800-532-1121
515-244-9124

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Answer Key

Signs

a. 8	b. 20	c. 3	d. 7
e. 1	f. 24	g. 15	h. 18
i. 10	j. 12	k. 5	l. 23
m. 21	n. 4	o. 16	p. 19
q. 13	r. 2	s. 14	t. 17
u. 9	v. 11	w. 6	x. 22

Multiple Choice and True/False

1. b	11. a	21. a	31. c	41. c
2. c	12. c	22. b	32. b	42. b
3. c	13. a	23. c	33. c	43. b
4. b	14. c	24. c	34. b	44. a
5. b	15. a	25. c	35. c	45. a
6. c	16. a	26. a	36. a	46. b
7. b	17. c	27. a	37. c	47. b
8. c	18. a	28. c	38. c	48. a
9. c	19. a	29. c	39. b	49. c
10. c	20. c	30. b	40. c	50. b